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The Armies of Sweden and Norway

Every Norwegian Between the Ages of Eighteen and Fifty is a Soldier -- Sweden Has Greater Population -- Naval Strength of the Two Countries.

AFTER nearly a century of union Sweden and Norway have mobilized their respective armies. Dispatched large bodies of troops to the frontier, ordered the crews of their warships to be on the alert and made every preparation for possible hostilities. Since the storming of Norway recently declared for Norwegian independence because of King Oscar's refusal to permit Norway to have separate consular officers abroad Sweden has given indications of a possible intention to frustrate Norwegian independence, even if war be necessary. In virility, pluck and valor the two nations are well matched, but Sweden has the larger navy and more than twice as great a population as Norway. According to the census of 1904 Sweden has 5,221,291 people, as against Norway's 2,292,535. The Swedish army consists of about 45,000 men, while Norway is credited with 77,000, including the reservists of the landstorm, who may be called upon for home defense until they are fifty years of age.

In Norway every man between the ages of eighteen and fifty, if physically able to do so, must rally to the defense of the fatherland. The able-bodied recruit begins soldiering at twenty-two in the line or active army and serves six years. He is next transferred to the landvorn for six years more, then he enters the landstorm for four years, after which he may be called out until he is a veteran of fifty. An infantry recruit receives forty-eight days of training when he enters the army, and 102 days are devoted to the making of a cavalryman, after which the drill is periodical. There are 5,150 officers and men in the navy, which consists of eight ironclads and coast defense ships, three cruisers, eleven gunboats and thirty-three torpedo vessels. The scenery of Norway is picturesque and beautiful. There are lofty, snow-capped mountains, with narrow



JULY IN A NORWEGIAN MOUNTAIN PASS.

valleys between; mighty glaciers, attractive lakes and dense forests. So many of the tablelands are barren that but one-thirtieth of Norway is under cultivation, and agriculture does not furnish enough food for home consumption, a fact that may trouble Norway a great deal, for Rabelais described corn as the "sinews of war." The picture shows Norwegian farmers digging a road through a July snowdrift in Dyreskard pass, which is only 3,715 feet above the sea.

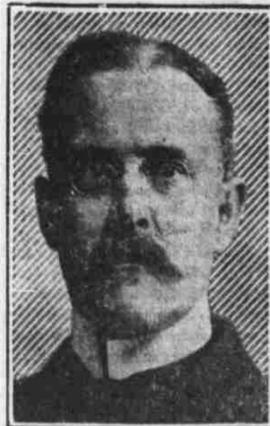
The army of Sweden is raised in three ways—by voluntary enlistment, by a partial conscription and by the levies of large landed proprietors, who, following an old feudal custom, furnish and maintain soldiers in lieu of paying certain taxes. These methods are unsatisfactory, and the system is to be replaced by universal compulsory service, the first stages of which are to be completed in 1907. The army as at present constituted, consisting of 2,700 officers and 43,000 men, may easily be largely increased in numbers.

The finest ship in the Swedish navy is the coast defense battleship Oscar II, which has a displacement about one-fourth that of the new monster battleships Japan is building in England. A dozen coast defense battleships of the Aran, Dristigheten and Gota types are respectively of 3,050, 3,450 and 3,300 tons displacement. As John Ericsson, inventor of the monitor, was a native of Sweden, this type of warship is well represented. Of the thirteen iron monitors four are of about 1,500 tons displacement, seven are of 400 tons and two are even smaller. Most of them were constructed shortly after the American civil war, when the Monitor and Merrimac had revolutionized naval warfare, and all have been rebuilt. Each monitor has but one turret, which in a number of ships has been changed to a barbette. One of the most formidable vessels is the armored cruiser Fylgia, 4,000 tons, which was recently completed. Three cruisers, forty-two torpedo boats and destroyers, a dozen gunboats and one submarine complete the list of available ships.

BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER.

College President Who Recently Scored the Idle Rich.

President Benjamin Ide Wheeler of the University of California, whose arraignment of the idle rich in a commencement address at Dartmouth college has caused such widespread comment, is a conspicuous exponent of the new system of American education. Primarily an authority upon the language and customs of ancient Greece, he is the antithesis of the dry as dust professor. Inspired by the spirit of the Olympic heroes, he is a sport in the best sense of that unhappy word, an advocate of pure college athletics and himself no mean performer with the oar, the bat and the pigskin. As professor of Greek at Cornell university, which position he left in 1890 to take the presidency of the California institution, he was the head of the faculty



BENJAMIN IDE WHEELER.

committee on athletics, and to him Cornell owes much of her reputation in the field of physical prowess. He was one of the judges of the Olympian games at Athens in 1897. Often referred to as a "Gibson man," President Wheeler's motto is the Hellenic one, "A sound mind in a sound body." "A man lives abundantly," he de-



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care at Dartmouth, "according as he opens his life to the opportunities of the world he lives in, both to be and to do." President Wheeler has so lived. Eminent as an author, historian and philosopher, his capacity for public service is so well recognized that on the retirement of Andrew D. White as ambassador to Germany he was generally regarded as his probable successor. President Wheeler is a comparatively young man, born in 1854. He was graduated from Brown university in 1875 and later from Heidelberg, having received since then degrees from nearly all the large American universities. He was married in 1881 to Amey Webb of Providence, R. I.

Out For So. 2.
Hicks—Of course every married woman believes that the proper age for matrimony is the age at which she married.
Wicks—Unless she happens to be a widow, and then she hastens to declare that she was entirely too young when she married the first time.—Catholic Standard and Times.

Life.
Life is a strange combination. Before a boy is old enough to go to school he awakens before daylight and wants to get the whole family up. Later it requires the whole family to get the boy up. Still later on he gets back to the early rising period and disturbs the peace of the family.—Springfield (O.) Sun.

A Little Tale From Fairyland.
"Just by way of experiment," said the first fairy, "I appeared to ten men at random and asked them to make a wish, and seven of them wanted to know how to play the races."
"Ah!" said the other elf. "Only seven? But I presume the others thought they knew."—Puck.

A Cure AIL.
Feelin' pretty blue, you say?
Ha! ha! ha!
Things went wrong with you today?
Ha! ha! ha!
One would think, to see you frown,
All the troubles in the town
Clung to you and weighed you down.
Ha! ha! ha!
Come, now, mister, don't get mad.
Ha! ha! ha!
I ain't laughin' 'cause you're sad.
Ha! ha! ha!
I've had troubles, too, today—
Bad as yours, I'll bet—but, say,
I'm a-drivin' 'em away.
Ha! ha! ha!
Grandest tonic on this earth—
Ha! ha! ha!
Is a steady dose o' mirth.
Ha! ha! ha!
Just you get a strangle hold
On your cares and knock 'em cold
With a hearty, merry old
Ha! ha! ha!
—Catholic Standard and Times.

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